

Reading: Thomas Stone

Use this biography of Thomas Stone to familiarize your students with Thomas Stone and why he is important. Can be posted and read as a class, read in groups or individually.

Post-Reading Activities

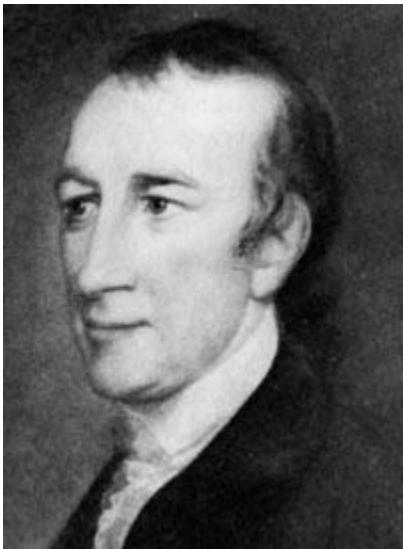
1. *Sequence:* Create a timeline of events in Thomas Stone's life.
2. *Summarize:* Write a paragraph explaining why Thomas Stone was a great American. Begin with a main idea sentence. Follow this with detail sentences explaining the main idea and a closing sentence.
3. *Draw conclusions:* How do you think Thomas Stone felt about signing the Declaration of Independence?
4. *Synthesis:* Would you have signed the Declaration of Independence? Why or why not?



Reading History!

Thomas Stone National Historic Site

Thomas Stone



Thomas Stone

Thomas Stone was a modest family man who stepped onto the pages of history when he signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Let's take a closer look at Thomas Stone.

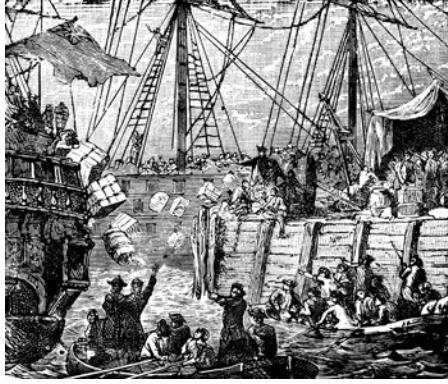
Childhood

Thomas Stone was born near Port Tobacco, in Charles County, Maryland in 1743. Little

is known about his education as a young boy, but Thomas grew up to be a lawyer. He was known for weighing all the options before making a decision. Thomas married Margaret Brown in 1768. In 1770, he bought Haberdeventure to raise his family. He had three children; Margaret, Mildred and Frederick.

On the Road to Independence

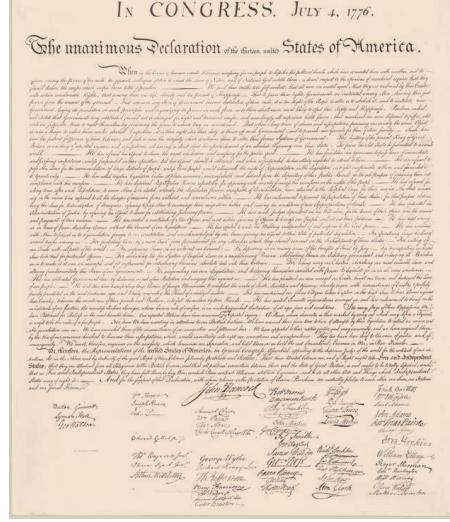
Thomas Stone was chosen as a member of the Charles County Committee of Correspondence. His job was to help keep in touch with the other colonies. He was chosen for the Second Continental Congress in 1775. Britain had been taxing the people in the colonies and the colonies felt it was unfair. There was also a lot of anger and arguments in the colonies between the people and Britain.



The colonists were upset about taxation without representation.

In May of 1776, Thomas Stone voted in favor of declaring independence. This was a hard decision for Thomas Stone to make. He wanted to be free, but he did not want to go to war. He hoped Britain and the colonies would be able to get along. On July 4, 1776, the colonies said they were free from Britain with the **Declaration of Independence**. Thomas Stone was one of 56 signers, four of the signers were from Maryland and seven were from Virginia.

Declaration of Independence



A Great Man

Thomas Stone's wife had become sick while he was working in the Second Continental Congress. After signing the Declaration of Independence, he took his wife home. He practiced law, served in the Maryland Senate and cared for his wife and growing children. His wife died in 1787 and Thomas Stone died less than four months later. Thomas Stone started off as a quiet family man who stepped into history by helping our country become what it is today.



Thomas Stone's home, Haberdeventure